<u>ABSTRACT</u>

A heat-shrinkable polyester film characterized in that:

- (A) the heat shrinkage percentages in the maximum shrinkage
- 5 direction thereof is 10 to 50% in hot water at 70°C;
 - (B) the heat shrinkage percentages in the maximum shrinkage direction thereof is 70% or more and that in the direction orthogonal to the maximum shrinkage direction is 10% or less in hot water at 85°C; and
- (C) when the heat shrinkage percentage in the maximum shrinkage direction in hot water at 95°C is designated as X₀ (%) and the heat shrinkage percentage in the maximum shrinkage direction of a film obtained by previously heat-shrinking said film to an extent of 10% in hot water at 95°C is designated as X₁₀ (%), the difference in heat shrinkage percentage Δ (%) calculated according to the following equation is 10 to 20%.

 $\Delta = X_0 - X_{10}$

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